



ANTONIO R. VILLARAIGOSA  
MAYOR

June 25, 2012

Dear Friends:

It is my pleasure to welcome you to Los Angeles for "The Mediterranean City: A Conference on Climate Change Adaptation," hosted by the Council for Watershed Health.

Although climate change is a global problem, cities have become a critical focus in the global climate change dialogue. By 2030, an estimated 59% of the world's population will live in cities. In developed countries like the United States, 81% of our population will live in large urban areas.

We in Los Angeles recognize the steps we take now will directly affect the future of our city and of every Angeleno. We are thrilled to collaborate with this conference's network and the knowledge we might share as we move towards adaptation planning for climate change.

From the 2008 Sister River Agreement between Tel Aviv's Yarqon River and the Los Angeles River, to the 2007 implementation of the "Green LA Climate Action Plan" and our leadership on the Los Angeles Regional Collaborative for Climate Action and Sustainability (LARC), we have demonstrated our commitment to aggressive collaborative planning and action for a healthy city in the face of a changing climate.

Climate change is not an isolated problem. It is shared across borders and can be best tackled when we work together. Over the next few days, you will focus your attention on developing strategies and partnerships to prepare for a changing future. I have no doubt that we can find innovative strategies to adapt. Acting together, we will be prepared.

I commend the Council for Watershed Health for hosting this conference and the Mediterranean City Consortium for their dedication to solving our world's problems. You have my best wishes for a memorable event and future success.

Very truly yours,

ANTONIO R. VILLARAIGOSA  
Mayor